

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14613 081637Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 MMO-01 A-01 PER-01 /066 W

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R 081623Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2686

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14613

EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, GW

SUBJECT: PERMANENT STATIONING PLAN FOR A US BRIGADE
IN NORTHAG

REF: BONN 13066

1. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WAS ADVISED ON SEPT. 4 BY AN
FMOD OFFICIAL THAT DEFMIN LEBER HAD RECEIVED A LETTER
FROM SACEUR EARLIER IN THE WEEK INDICATING THAT
GENERAL HAIG HAD DECIDED TO SELECT OPTION I FOR
STATIONING A BRIGADE IN NORTHAG, I.E., BREMERHAVEN
AND GARLSTEDT (REFTEL). THE LETTER REPORTEDLY URGES
LEBER TO SUPPORT SACEUR'S DECISION.

2. FMOD STATE SECRETARY FINGERHUT TRAVELLED TO
HANNOVER LAST MONTH TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH LOWER
SAXONY STATE OFFICIALS. FINGERHUT SPOKE WITH INTERIOR
MINISTER GROSS INSTEAD OF MINISTER-PRESIDENT KUBEL WHO
WAS THEN ON VACATION. GROSS IS REPORTED TO HAVE
INFORMED FINGERHUT THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT (SPD/FDP)
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PAGE 02 BONN 14613 081637Z

VIEWED THE STATIONING PLAN IN "POSITIVE" TERMS, WHEREAS

THE CDU OPPOSITION WAS ALLEGEDLY "RESERVED" ABOUT IT. STATE OFFICIALS MUST GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF THE STATE-OWNED LAND BEFORE FMOD CAN ASSUME CONTROL OVER THE AREA FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ULTIMATE USE BY US FORCES.

3. AS FOR THE REACTION IN FARLSTEDT , FINGERHUT REPORTED THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROSPECT OF HAVING AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE AREA. THE PRESENCE OF US FORCES WILL MEAN A GREATER CASH INFLOW INTO THE AREA AS WELL AS STIMULATE THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHEN THE NEW FACILITIES ARE BUILT.

4. IN A DISCUSSION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER LATE LAST MONTH, A SENIOR FMOD OFFICIAL STRESSED THE NEED TO TAKE A FINANCING DECISION SOON IF THE US AND FRG HOPE TO MEET THE TIGHT TIMETABLE FOR PREPARING THE FACILITIES FOR THE TROOPS.

5. COMMENT: DURING THE DISCUSSION REPORTED PARA. 4, IT SEEMED CLEAR TO US THAT THE FRG HAS NOT MADE A DECISION TO ASSUME THE FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN. WE HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE FRG IS NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE FINANCING FROM THE CURRENT BUDGET, ASK THE BUNDESTAG FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS, OR INCLUDE FUNDS FOR IT IN THE 1976 BUDGET. INSTEAD, THE FRG APPEARS TO VIEW AS OPTIONS EITHER (A) PRE-FINANCING OF INFRASTRUCTURE SLICES THROUGH NATO OR (B) USE OF FUNDS FROM THE CURRENT OFFSET-BARRACKS REHABILITATION PROGRAM, OF WHICH DM 300 MILLION IS REPORTED TO BE UNCOMMITTED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT USAREUR AND USAFE STRONGLY REPEAT STRONGLY OBJECT TO USE OF OFFSET FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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